

ORIGINAL

JUL 19 1999

**From:** Marilyn Kramer <mjkramer@U.Arizona.EDU>  
**To:** "bkennard@fcc.gov" <bkennard@fcc.gov>, "campaign@b...  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 7:32 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast

pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

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10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

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Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:  
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights  
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting  
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University  
Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio  
David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio  
Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program  
Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)  
Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV  
Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley  
Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education  
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored  
Ellen Braune--Publicist  
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology  
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Juliet Schor--Harvard University  
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author  
Marilyn J. Kramer, 4348 East 15th Street, Tucson, AZ 85711

ORIGINAL

JUL 19 1999

**From:** Joan Norris <Norris\_Joan@shure.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 1:50 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology  
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Juliet Schor--Harvard University  
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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street=4211 N. Francisco  
city=Chicago  
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zip=60618  
=Send to FCC



ORIGINAL

JUL 19 1999

**From:** Greg Ruggiero <gregruggiero@earthlink.net>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:48 PM  
**Subject:** Ralph Nader Sends Support for LPFM and MEC

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard and fellow FCC Commissioners,

Greetings from New York City.

It is a privilege to share with you the following communication by Ralph Nader which expresses support for LPFM licensing.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



Sincerely Yours,

Greg Ruggiero  
Steering Committee,  
Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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July 9, 1999

Following is a column by Ralph Nader urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to authorize the operation of non-commercial low-power FM radio stations.

By Ralph Nader

Ever wonder why radio generally has become so canned, flat and insipid, bereft of local news, stuffed with commercials, mercantile values and the same old, tired junk, not to mention the downright offensiveness of Howard Stern and the other shock jocks?

First, for years, over 90% of all radio time is composed of entertainment (music) and advertisements. In addition, in the last three years, diversity in radio station ownership has been collapsing. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 raised the number of radio outlets that any single corporation may own in any market, which loosed a flood of radio company mergers. So, station ownership is not only concentrated in fewer corporate hands, but formulaic programming takes the few reporters left and local coverage to the back seat.

Two conglomerates own over 400 radio stations each, all over the country. One woman complained about the sameness of Cleveland radio, following two huge radio company mergers: "It's as though McDonald's bought every restaurant in town and all you could get was a Big Mac."

The purpose of these corporate radio mega-conglomerates is to maximize profits by reducing costs of reporters and editors -- not to enrich public discourse or cover the news in their areas. Market forces have not led to a vigorous radio culture, or thoughtful programming, or programming that gives voice to the community.

In their quest for larger audiences, more advertising and greater profits, commercial broadcasters cater to the basest standards, with

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ever more blatant effusions of crassness, sex talk and nihilism. Commercial rewards drive the creation, production and marketing of ever more Howard Sterns, Greasemens, shock jocks and the rest.

This inevitably leads to a coarsening of our culture, which has particularly harmful effects on children.

Even "public" radio is becoming commercialized. National Public Radio now carries many ever longer "underwriting messages" -- which are a form of advertisement.

Meanwhile, the public is mostly silent on the airwaves that we legally own.

Radio is supposed to serve the ends and purposes of the First Amendment: to protect public discourse, which is essential to our form of democratic self-government.

But the current regulatory regime for radio serves to thwart the First Amendment rights and interests of most Americans. We speak little, if at all, on our own airwaves, while the wealthy may speak through radio by controlling who uses their stations and for what purposes.

What good is freedom of speech if nobody can afford it? Is speech truly free if only the wealthy can buy it?

Here's the good news: at last, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may come to the rescue.

Right now, the FCC is considering whether to set up noncommercial low-power FM (LPFM) radio stations of up to 100 watts, with a range of a few miles. That's a big deal. Imagine the new voices that could flourish on these micro-stations -- service and advocacy groups, universities, community and civic organizations, ethnic groups, arts organizations, seniors groups and others.

They could really liven up the radio dial. They could give us some choices.

But it is not enough merely to authorize LPFM service. The FCC should allocate more spectrum for low power radio broadcasting, and introduce it when radio switches from analog to digital signals.

These small stations could enrich the public's understanding of civic issues and social problems. They could be a modest but important step toward more cohesive communities, a renewed public discourse and a richer and more realistic culture. It is not often that a federal agency could achieve so much with so little.

Americans are drowning in a sea of commercialism. Americans are immersed in advertisements, junk mail, junk faxes, tv and radio ads, telemarketing, billboards and more. There are ads in schools, beach sand, airport lounges, doctors offices, hospitals, convenience stores, floors of supermarkets, toilet stalls, on the Internet, and countless other places. Advertisers even tried, unsuccessfully, to put ads in space and on postage stamps. Tom Vanderbilt, author of *The Sneaker*

Book, writes of advertisers' effort to "hang a jingle in front of America's every waking moment."

Three cheers for the Microradio Empowerment Coalition, a coalition of microradio stations, community and civic groups, organizations, and individuals which is working to make non-commercial LPFM radio a reality.

There is a profound need in America today for public spaces in which people can talk to one another. We don't need more advertising talking at us. Can't we have just a few spaces -- niches really -- that are free from advertising -- sanctuaries, in effect? Is that too much to ask?

The FCC ought use its authority to establish non-commercial LPFM stations -- to build a stronger democracy in America, and serve a vision grander than the profit-driven trivialization of most of the broadcasting and advertising industries. The FCC was not intended to merely protect the speech rights of broadcasters, advertisers and the wealthy. It ought to uphold and protect the public's First Amendment interests in radio, to rededicate radio to the service of democracy in America. Non-commercial LPFM radio is one modest step toward that goal.

<-----column ends here ----->

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Send a comment (even if it's very brief) to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in support of non-commercial low power FM radio. The deadline for comments to the FCC on the microradio Notice of Proposed Rule Making has been extended to August 2, 1999.

Instructions for sending a comment to the FCC via e-mail are available from the FCC at <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Alternatively, you may want to sign onto the Microradio Empowerment Coalition's appeal to legalize noncommercial community-based microradio, at <<http://www.nlgcdc.org/mec/mec.html>>.

For more information, see Commercial Alert's web page on non-commercial low-power FM radio, at <<http://www.essential.org/alert/radio/index.html>>

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Commercial Alert was founded last year to oppose the excesses of commercialism, advertising and marketing. The web address for Commercial Alert is <<http://www.essential.org/alert/>>. For additional information, send e-mail to <[alert@essential.org](mailto:alert@essential.org)> or call (202) 296-2787.

Commercial Alert's materials are distributed on the listserve <[commercial-alert@essential.org](mailto:commercial-alert@essential.org)>. To subscribe to commercial-alert, send an e-mail message to <[listproc@essential.org](mailto:listproc@essential.org)> with the following all in one line:

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\*\*\*\*\*

MICRO RADIO  
EMPOWERMENT  
COALITION

email: [mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)

voicemail: 212. 942. 8899

Coalition website: <http://www.nlgcdc.org/mec/index.html>

Comments on the FCC Proposal: <http://www.nlgcdc.org/99-25.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

CC: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("gwb@mail.georgewbush.com","campaign...

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**From:** Terrin Haley <haleys@wolfenet.com>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 1:22 PM  
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George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting  
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University  
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Terrin Haley

street=4730 91st ave SE

city=mercero Island

state=wa

zip=98040

=Send to FCC

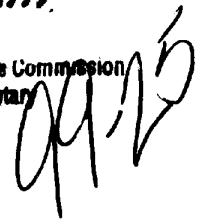


ORIGINAL

JUL 19 1999

**From:** <DunnBates@aol.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("%20mec%tao.ca...  
**Date:** Fri, Jul 9, 1999 12:39 PM  
**Subject:** Form Response

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



To: bkennard@fcc.gov, sness@fcc.gov, hfurchtg@fcc.gov, mpowell@fcc.gov, gtristan@fcc.gov, President@whitehouse.gov, First.Lady@whitehouse.gov, Vice.President@whitehouse.gov, campaign@billbradley.com, gwb@mail.georgewbush.com, mec@tao.ca  
subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25X-Mailer: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 4.01; AOL 4.0; Mac\_PPC)MIME-Version: 1.0Content-type: text/plainContent-Length: 9378 =To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

EX PARTE OR LATE FILE

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

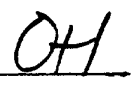
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia

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Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Colleen Dunn Bates

street=1041 Prospect Blvd.

city=Pasadena

state=CA

zip=91103

=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

**From:** <envirovideo@earthlink.net>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:53 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

RECEIVED

JUL 19 1999

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Joan Flynn

street=Box 311

city=Ft Tilden

state=NY

zip=11694

=Send to FCC




JUL 19 1999

ORIGINAL

**From:** "Eugene C. Bricklemyer, Jr., Esq." <bobrick@igc.org>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:30 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
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Additional Comments=

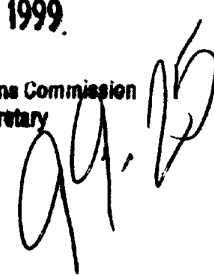
name=Eugene Brickley  
street=1934 Victoria Ave SW  
city=Seattle  
state=WA  
zip=98126  
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

JUL 19 1999

**From:** <LPEllrich@aol.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("%20mec%tao.ca...  
**Date:** Sat, Jul 10, 1999 5:09 PM  
**Subject:** Form Response

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



To: bkennard@fcc.gov, sness@fcc.gov, hfurchtg@fcc.gov, mpowell@fcc.gov, gtristan@fcc.gov, President@whitehouse.gov, First.Lady@whitehouse.gov, Vice.President@whitehouse.gov, campaign@billbradley.com, gwb@mail.georgewbush.com, mec@tao.ca  
subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25X-Mailer: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 4.01; AOL 4.0; Mac\_PPC)MIME-Version: 1.0Content-type: text/plainContent-Length: 9365 =To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
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Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

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state=IN

zip=46220

=Send to FCC



ORIGINAL

JUL 19 1999

**From:** <davidryan@seanet.com>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESSE),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:47 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to

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The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.

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Additional Comments=

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city=SEATTLE

state=WA

zip=98112

=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

JUL 19 1999

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**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 2:14 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Office of Secretary

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